

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT:	H. Yoshimura	CONF. NO.:	7701
U.S. SERIAL NO.:	10/783,347	EXAMINER:	K. Tang
FILED:	February 20, 2004	GROUP:	2195
FOR:	ASYMMETRICAL MULTIPROCESSOR SYSTEM, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS USING SAME, AND UNIT JOB PROCESSING METHOD USING ASYMMETRICAL MULTIPROCESSOR		

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

Further to telephone conversations on May 1, 2009 and May 8, 2009 with Examiner Tang, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An asymmetrical multiprocessor system comprising a plurality of processors for executing a plurality of unit jobs, workloads for which are foreseeable, the unit jobs being allocated job by job to the plurality of processors, at least a first processor and a second processor being asymmetrical to each other, the asymmetrical multiprocessor system comprising:

unit job processing information generating means into which image data read by an image reading apparatus is inputted and which is for generating unit job processing information including a main scanning line number that indicates an order of main scanning line data read at a certain interval in a main scanning direction by the image reading apparatus, the unit job processing information being used as reference information when the unit jobs are allocated to the plurality of processors, the unit jobs being included in processes to be applied to the main scanning line data; and

unit job scheduling means for determining, in accordance with the unit job processing information, in what order the unit jobs are to be executed, and to which processor the unit jobs are to be allocated, wherein:

the first processor executes an instruction set for executing the unit jobs;

the second processor executes at least an instruction subset that is a part of the instruction set; and

an exclusive job, among the unit jobs, is allocated to the first processor preferentially over a general-purpose job and an asymmetrical job,

the exclusive job being a job executable only for the first processor,

the general-purpose job being a job executable for the first processor and the second processor, and

the asymmetrical job being a job that is executable for the first processor and the second processor, and that requires different time for execution by the first processor and the second processor because programs executed are different.

Claim 2 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:  
at least one of the unit jobs is executable for the first processor and the second processor in accordance with programs that are different from each other.

Claim 3 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:  
the unit job processing information includes information about power consumption of each of the processors; and  
in accordance with the information about power consumption, the unit job scheduling means determines to which processor the unit jobs are to be allocated, determination being done in such a manner that the power consumption is reduced.

Claim 4 (original): An asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:  
mode switching means for switching each processor between an operation mode and a power-saving mode, in accordance with a result of a process performed by the unit job scheduling means,  
the operation mode being a mode in which the processor is enabled to execute unit jobs, and  
the power-saving mode being a mode in which power consumption is lower than in the operation mode.

Claim 5 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:  
a memory for the first processor and a memory for the second processor have memory capacities that are different from each other.

Claim 6 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the first processor is capable of executing an instruction set for executing unit jobs; and  
the second processor is capable of executing at least an instruction subset that is a part of the instruction set.

Claim 7 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the unit job processing information includes (i) information, with respect to each unit job, about an estimated value of time required for processing the unit job, (ii) information about dependency relations between the unit jobs, and (iii) information, with respect to each unit job, about which processor is capable of executing the unit job.

Claim 8 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the unit job scheduling means determines, at least at an end of each unit job, in what order the unit jobs are to be executed.

Claim 9 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the unit job scheduling means performs (i) a process of extracting the unit job executable for one or more of the plurality of processors, (ii) a process of extracting the processor that is not yet scheduled which unit job to execute, and (iii) a process of allocating, to the processor extracted, the unit job executable for the processor extracted.

Claim 10 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in one of claims 1 and 2, wherein:

the unit job scheduling means allocates a unit job to the second processor, which is capable of executing at least the unit job, preferentially over the first processor, which is capable of executing more kinds of unit jobs than the second processor is.

Claim 11 (original): The asymmetrical multiprocessor system as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the unit job scheduling means allocates a general-purpose job, among the unit jobs, to the second processor preferentially over the first processor, the general-purpose job being a job executable for the first processor and the second processor.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising

an asymmetrical multiprocessor system, including a plurality of processors for executing a plurality of unit jobs, workloads for which are foreseeable, the unit jobs being allocated job by job to the plurality of processors, at least a first processor and a second processor being asymmetrical to each other, the asymmetrical multiprocessor system including:

unit job processing information generating means into which image data read by an image reading apparatus is inputted and which is for generating unit job processing information including a main scanning line number that indicates an order of main scanning line data read at a certain interval in a main scanning direction by the image reading apparatus, the unit job processing information being used as reference information when the unit jobs are allocated to the plurality of processors, the unit jobs being included in processes to be applied to the main scanning line data; and

unit job scheduling means for determining, in accordance with the unit job processing information, in what order the unit jobs are to be executed, and to which processor the unit jobs are to be allocated, wherein:

the first processor executes an instruction set for executing the unit jobs;

the second processor executes at least an instruction subset that is a part of the instruction set; and

an exclusive job, among the unit jobs, is allocated to the first processor preferentially over a general-purpose job and an asymmetrical job,

the exclusive job being a job executable only for the first processor,

the general-purpose job being a job executable for the first processor and the second processor, and

the asymmetrical job being a job that is executable for the first processor and the second processor, and that requires different time for execution by the first processor and the second processor because programs executed are different.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising an image processing apparatus, including

an image reading apparatus, and

an asymmetrical multiprocessor system, including a plurality of processors for executing a plurality of unit jobs, workloads for which are foreseeable, the unit jobs being allocated job by job to the plurality of processors, at least a first processor and a second processor being asymmetrical to each other, the asymmetrical multiprocessor system including:

unit job processing information generating means into which image data read by an image reading apparatus is inputted and which is for generating unit job processing information including a main scanning line number that indicates an order of main scanning line data read at a certain interval in a main scanning direction by the image reading apparatus, the unit job processing information being used as reference information when the unit jobs are allocated to the plurality of processors, the unit jobs being included in processes to be applied to the main scanning line data; and

unit job scheduling means for determining, in accordance with the unit job processing information, in what order the unit jobs are to be executed, and to which processor the unit jobs are to be allocated, wherein:

the first processor executes an instruction set for executing the unit jobs;

the second processor executes at least an instruction subset that is a part of the instruction set; and

an exclusive job, among the unit jobs, is allocated to the first processor preferentially over a general-purpose job and an asymmetrical job,

the exclusive job being a job executable only for the first processor,

the general-purpose job being a job executable for the first processor and the second processor, and

the asymmetrical job being a job that is executable for the first processor and the second processor, and that requires different time for execution by the first processor and the second processor because programs executed are different.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A unit job processing method using asymmetrical multiprocessors for executing a plurality of unit jobs, workloads for which are foreseeable, the unit jobs being allocated job by job to the asymmetrical multiprocessors, the asymmetrical multiprocessors including at least a first processor and a second processor, which are asymmetrical to each other, the unit job processing method comprising the steps of:

generating unit job processing information including a main scanning line number that indicates an order of main scanning line data read at a certain interval in a main scanning direction by an image reading apparatus, the unit job processing information being used as reference information when the unit jobs are allocated to the plurality of processors, the unit jobs being included in processes to be applied to the main scanning line data; and

determining, in accordance with the unit job processing information, in what order the unit jobs are to be executed, and to which processor the unit jobs are to be allocated, wherein:

the first processor executes an instruction set for executing the unit jobs;

the second processor executes at least an instruction subset that is a part of the instruction set; and

an exclusive job, among the unit jobs, is allocated to the first processor preferentially over a general-purpose job and an asymmetrical job,

the exclusive job being a job executable only for the first processor,

the general-purpose job being a job executable for the first processor and the second processor, and

the asymmetrical job being a job that is executable for the first processor and the second processor, and that requires different time for execution by the first processor and the second processor because programs executed are different.

Claim 16 (original): The unit job processing method as set forth in claim 15, wherein:

at least one of the unit jobs is executable for the first processor and the second processor in accordance with programs that are different from each other.



**REMARKS**

In a telephone conversation between Examiner Tang and Applicant's representative on May 1, 2009, Examiner Tang indicated that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, and that independent claims 1 and 13-15 would be considered allowable if amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12, and to positively recite that the first processor "executes" an instruction set, and the second processor "executes" at least an instruction subset. Independent claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended in the manner recommended by the Examiner, as confirmed in a telephone conversation on May 8, 2009.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12, which has been canceled without prejudice. Further, as amended, independent claims 1 and 13-15 recite that the first processor "executes an instruction set for executing the unit jobs," and the second processor "executes at least an instruction subset that is a part of the instruction set."

In other words, independent claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 13-15, and dependent claims 2-11 and 16 should be in condition for allowance.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven M. Jensen/

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